

What we achieved in session 2008-2009.....

One of the principles of Curriculum for Excellence is to engage children in active learning.

We examined our practice and introduced more active learning.

Here children are taking part in a maths lesson in the playground learning about shape, position and movement.

Three teachers attended a follow up training day to the three day course they attended last session on cooperative learning.

Cooperative learning is embedded in most classes, developing independent learning, team work and confident, successful learners.



A new way of starting the morning was introduced in primary 1/2. For the first 20 minutes a variety of active learning experiences are set up for the children. This 'soft start' helps the children to settle, work together and be ready for further learning in the day ahead.



Many new resources were purchased.

These included a new kitchen for the home corner, dolls' house, puppet theatre and puppets for role play and imaginative play, portable whiteboard stand and many learning games.

How did our pupils perform?....

Attainment		2005/ 06	2006/ 07	2007/ 08	2008/ 09
Reading	School	85	87	100	86
	EA	84	85	85	85
Writing	School	78	80	89	92
	EA	81	81	81	82
Mathematics	School	90	98	89	98
	EA	87	88	88	88

(Note : EA = Average for all Falkirk Council Primary Schools)

Attendance session 2008-2009 ----- 97%

The attainment reflects the hard work of teachers and pupils.

We hope that parents will continue to encourage their children to do their best and ensure that homework is completed every evening.

Children make the best progress when school and parents work in partnership to support their child's learning and I hope that all parents will continue to support the school to provide the best education for their child.

Attainment in writing has improved steadily over the last 3 years since we introduced a time each week dedicated to writing skills throughout the school.

Our attendance figures are higher than the authority average and parents are thanked for following the procedures for reporting any absence due to illness. This session 10% of our pupils achieved full attendance for the session.

Thanks to all parents who arrange their holidays during school holidays. Pupils with the best attendance are the most successful.

Our Priorities for Session 2009-2010.....

We shall further develop Curriculum for Excellence by reviewing and revising our curriculum and methodology across the curriculum from nursery to primary 7 in:

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Health and Well Being.

Programmes of work and plans will incorporate the learning outcomes and experiences published in May 2009.

We shall ensure that the principles and purposes of Curriculum for Excellence are embedded throughout our curriculum from nursery to primary 7.

We shall hold parent information evenings to keep parents up to date with Curriculum for Excellence developments.

A bigger, better library will soon be ready for our pupils. Children's library skills will be developed and all children will be encouraged to read for pleasure and develop the reading habit.

Primary 7 and primary 6 pupils will have 6 sessions delivered by our active sports coordinator to develop leadership skills.

Primary 6 pupils will attend a workshop run by E.S.U. to develop debating skills.

Debating skills will be further developed during the year.

In primary 1 an active literacy programme, developed by North Lanarkshire Education Department, will be introduced. The programme has had very good results in developing literacy skills in North Lanarkshire.

Teachers will be trained to deliver a method called 'Book Detectives' which has been found to increase pupils' reading skills and motivation.

All teaching staff attended a Curriculum for Excellence development day with other schools in May, focusing on the literacy experiences and outcomes. The final version of the experiences and outcomes had just been published and staff had the opportunity to plan for their implementation in session 2009-2010.

Support staff attended training to raise their awareness of ways of supporting pupils to achieve the four capacities of Curriculum for Excellence.

We held a money week to develop pupils' financial education. All stages in the school were involved from nursery to primary 7.

Primary 6/7 concentrated on learning about foreign currencies and exchange rates. They planned and organised a French café which was very busy on the open afternoon. Everything on sale was priced in Euros. Pupils exchanged Sterling into Euros for their customers. Pupils made the aprons, cutting them out and learning to use a sewing machine.



The nursery class priced fruit for the fruit shop they set up. A parent who works in a local supermarket helped and introduced the children to different fruits.

Primary 5, 6 and 7 had a lesson about how to look after their money and how cash machines operate from a representative of the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Primary 1/2 set up a post office and visited the local post office.

All the children in the school made papier mache piggy banks.



The school bank was opened by Mary Pitcaithly, the chief executive of Falkirk Council.

After the money week primary 6/7 were trained how to run a school bank by a representative of the Royal Bank of Scotland. Pupils applied for positions in the bank and the successful applicants interviewed. Pupils will run the school bank in session 2009-2010.



World of Work.

Primary 6 and primary 7 pupils attended a World of Work Day at Forth Valley College of Education. Many employers had given up a day to work with the children. The pupils took part in a variety of workshops, introducing some of the careers available when they leave school.

Community Involvement.

Primary 7 pupils organised the distribution of goods from our Harvest Table to senior citizens in the village. Senior citizens were invited to special performances of our school show 'Tam Lin' and carol singing. Our bid for £10 000 funding from the Cooperative Group's Green Energy for Schools Scheme was successful. In September/October solar panels will be put on the school roof. Many schools nationwide applied, but only a few were successful. We are delighted that we are one of them.

Assessment Diaries.

We introduced weekly assessment diaries to improve information to parents about what children are learning and achieving in school and to develop pupils' self evaluation skills. A survey of parents showed that they found them very helpful..

Talking for Scotland is an annual competition organised by Falkirk's smaller schools. This year two age groups competed, primary 3 to primary 5 and primary 6 to primary 7.

All pupils from primary 3 to primary 7 prepared and delivered a talk on the subject 'My Future's in Falkirk'. The school finalists went forward to the inter school competition. Both our speakers delivered very confident talks in front of a large audience.

Football

Pupils from primary 4 and 5 took part in the Football Fun Fours competition. The team reached the regional final. A very exciting final match went to extra time, in the last minute the team from Kippen scored another goal.

Nursery children had six weeks training in early football skills. The children enjoyed taking part in this football scheme run by Falkirk Football Club.

HMIe inspection of Religious and Moral Education.

We received a one day visit from a HMIe inspector assessing the quality of learning and teaching in religious and moral education in Scotland. During his visit the inspector observed two lessons, looked at work and talked to groups of children. He said that the children had a very good knowledge of religious and moral education.

Enterprise

All children from nursery to primary 7 were engaged in a variety of enterprising activities.

Primary 3/4 designed and made a school calendar with all important school dates for session 2009-2010. Every pupil's birthday is also shown on the calendar. Every class represents a month in the calendar.



California Primary School Aims

In line with the aims and visions of Curriculum for Excellence, National Priorities and Falkirk Council's Learning to Achieve Strategy at California Primary School we aim to enable all pupils to become:

1. SUCCESSFUL LEARNERS by providing an appropriate curriculum which will:

- be resourced effectively
- be well planned and evaluated
- be broad, balanced and provide continuity and progression in line with local and national priorities
- be effective in raising standards of attainment and achievement in all areas
- equip pupils with the necessary skills, attitudes and expectations to prepare them for a life in a changing society and to encourage creativity and ambition
- provide all pupils with high quality learning experiences and fosters a positive attitude to learning.

CONFIDENT INDIVIDUALS by creating a positive ethos where:

- there is a safe, relaxed and happy teaching and learning environment
- pupils are encouraged and motivated to give of their best
- pupils' current work is displayed in an attractive and interesting manner
- equality issues are discussed openly and constructively
- pupils, parents and staff are treated with respect and in a fair and just manner
- culture and language, disability, gender, race, religion and special educational needs are not barriers to participation
- effective support systems are provided for all pupils which promote personal achievement.
- all pupils feel safe and secure in an ethos of social inclusion and equality.
- all pupils are involved in their education and their opinions are valued in a climate of mutual trust and respect.

RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS by:

- implementing programmes in positive behaviour, personal and social development, health and wellbeing and citizenship
- encouraging parents to participate in their children's learning and the life of the school
- equipping pupils with the core skills, attitudes and expectations required to prosper in a changing society.
- encouraging creativity, ambition and enthusiasm for lifelong learning.
- encouraging entrepreneurial experiences which will foster development of skills and competencies in working with people.
- involving pupils in events to support those less fortunate than themselves.
- encouraging all pupils to demonstrate good behaviour, self-discipline and respect for others.

4. EFFECTIVE CONTRIBUTORS by:

- ensuring that all pupils realise that they have an important part to play in the life and work of the school.
- creating and solving problems in a climate of mutual trust and respect for others.
- encouraging links to organisations within and outwith school.
- ensuring effective partnerships between pupils, parents, carers and the wider community are consolidated.
- communicating and consulting effectively with parents/carers and the wider community and involving pupils and parents in the process of the development of the school vision and aims.

FALKIRK COUNCIL Education Services

California Primary School and Nursery Class Standards & Quality Report Session 2008-2009

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you probably know, each year the government and the Council publish information designed to show how well schools and local authorities are improving pupil performance year on year.

In similar fashion, we in California Primary School would like to tell you how we are progressing in our school. This leaflet has been designed to do just that. It is our "Standards and Quality Report" for last session.

Inside, you will find a brief description of our main achievements during last session. Whilst we do many things in the course of a year, we have focused on what we consider to be the most important areas. In similar fashion, I have outlined the school's main priorities for next session.

I hope you find the leaflet helpful. If you have any questions about it, please do not hesitate to phone the school office for an appointment. I will be pleased to offer clarification.

H.Dickson
Headteacher

